

CHAMBERS FINEST HONORED AT ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT



Pictured Left to Right: Attorney Richard Mudrick, Shining Star Award, J.J. Georgagis, Keystone Bakery, Excellence in Business Award, Jo Ellen Welsh, Mon Valley Initiative, and John J. LaCarte, LaCarte Development, Outstanding Business Development. *See story on page 4.*

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October Member Spotlight GENERAL INDUSTRIES



General Industries is in the Member Spotlight for October. Pictured here left to right are: Kristine Hall, Lisa Muse, Jessica Hemmerle, Michael Krehlik, Matthew Ivill, Cyndi Grimm, and Kathleen Anderson. *See story on page 3.*



Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

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E-mail: info@mvrchamber.org

website: www.mvrchamber.org

President: Armand Ferrara
V. President: Atty. Rick Mudrick
Secretary: David Galloni
Treasurer: Milton Kubik
Executive Board: Jerry Zahand, Sr.
Executive Board: James Protin

Chamber Staff:
Executive Director: Debra Keefer
Financial Assistant: Donna Angelo

We regret any errors or omissions
in this newsletter

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Naylor's Body Shop

Jerry Naylor
533 Meldon Avenue
Donora, PA 15033
724-379-5433
Auto Repair

Washington County Council on Economic Development

Ed Nemeth
40 South Main Street, Lower Level
Washington, PA 15301
724-225-8223
www.washingtoncountypa.org
Economic Development – Non-Profit

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724-736-0160
www.epochsleeper.net



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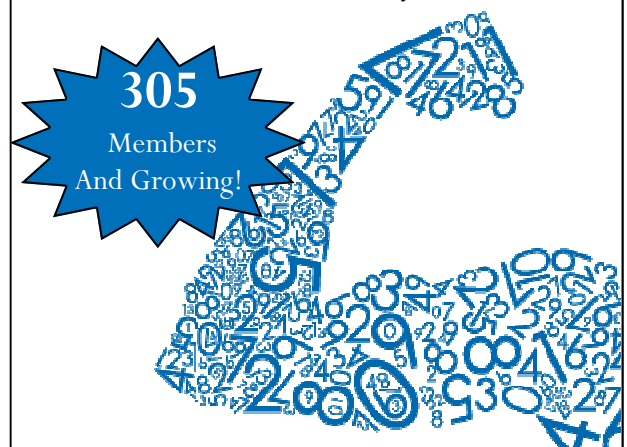


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NEW MEMBERS Get the FALL Months FREE!

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quote and more information.*



October Member Spotlight GENERAL INDUSTRIES

General Industries (GI) has been in business since 1973. Started by Don Ivill, Sr. and now led by Don Ivill, Jr., the company continues to grow with daughter Michelle Ivill and son Matthew Ivill bringing a new generation to the company. It is General Industries' continued mission to provide unprecedented service in commercial construction, development and leasing.

In today's unpredictable market, GI has been able to remain successful, attributable to experience, resources and the company's team. GI's comprehensive services and solutions provide their clients with buildings and office space that fit the scope and structure of their business.

An integral part of the GI business structure is supporting and encouraging the growth of the Mon Valley and recognizing the importance of nurturing the place where we live and work. GI has self-developed various real estate developments in the area including Vista One Professional Center, Speers Development I & II and WillowPointe Plaza.



Vista One Professional Plaza at Speers Industrial Park



Aquatech International at Speers Industrial Park

Currently GI is completing projects for Brownsville Marine Products and Dura-Bond Industries. A few new projects in progress include Plum Borough Municipal Center, Washington Ford, Aquatech International and most recently Pediatric Associates of Westmoreland and XTO Energy Inc.

General Industries offers two specialized services: The Smart Build Process and The Perfect Lease Experience. Please visit www.GenIndustries.com to learn more about our services.

General Industries has maintained their membership and supported the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce for 19 years, and was recognized in 2007 with the "Outstanding Business Development"



New Location—320 McKean Avenue **MY GIRLS KORNER KITCHEN**



My Girls Korner Kitchen recently celebrated their new location at 320 McKean Avenue in Charleroi. Joining the festivities were left to right: David and Don Ruschak building owners, Mark Alterici, Charleroi Borough Council President, owner Charisse Adams, Matthew Stefanick, Head Chef, Donald Ruschak, building owner, and Deb Keefer, Mon Valley Regional Chamber Director. My Girls offers delicious home cooking and is open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday-Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 7:00 AM -5:00 PM. You can find them on Facebook or call them at 724-483-5660.

STARS WERE OUT FOR ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT

By Jeremy Sellew, Staff Writer for Trib Total Media

Some of the brightest stars in the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce were honored as the organization hosted its annual awards event on September 13th. The event took place in the Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center at Monongahela Valley Hospital.

The chamber recognized Keystone Bakery, LaCarte Development Co. Inc., Mon Valley Initiative and attorney Richard Mudrick. “We have some young entrepreneurs that are really pushing forward and taking a lot of risks,” chamber Executive Director Debra Keefer said. “This is such a great event, and the whole night had a tone of the Mid-Mon Valley moving and rising above. We’re proud that the Mon Valley is a place where global companies can come and do business.”

LaCarte Development received the Outstanding Business Development Award for leadership in bringing tenants to the Alta Vista Business Park in Fallowfield Township. The award recognizes a member that has successfully expanded its facilities and generated growth and employment in the Mon Valley. “I’ve come to learn that the first time you build something, you have to get it right,” President John LaCarte said. “This one, we got it right.”

Special recognition went to Alta Vista tenants Gardner Denver Nash and Weatherford. “Economically speaking, on paper, this development didn’t make sense,” LaCarte said. “But development is much more than the buildings. Weatherford employees have moved into the Mon Valley area. “Gardner Denver Nash officials are making our home their home. We’ve added a new road, and now there’s a new water system. These are the real stories of what development does.”

Keystone Bakery received the Excellence in Business Award, which recognizes a chamber member that continuously and consistently provides its customers with outstanding products and services. Owners J.J. and Melissa Georgagis, who took over the business in 2007, accepted the award. “I wouldn’t be here without the support of my family and my employees,” J.J. Georgagis said. “I have two employees that have been with the bakery for 40 years and three that have been there over 30 years. That’s a success story in itself.”

Georgagis was applauded for expanding his business with new products and a new website. “I don’t think anyone realizes that 25 percent of Keystone’s business is wholesale,” Keefer said. “Even with all the traditional goodies, there’s now pierogis and pizza. J.J.’s into mass marketing and growing his business while continuing to be a supplier to local businesses. “A will to succeed and hard work is the key to success for Keystone.”



Missy Georgagis shares a smile as Keystone Bakery receives honors at Chamber’s Annual Awards

The Regional Service Award went to the **Mon Valley Initiative**, a nonprofit organization whose mission is working to unite the communities and restore the economic vitality of the Mon Valley by constructing high quality, affordable housing, assisting the communities with developing main street districts, and helping community development corporations to become more efficient. John Harhai, of the Monessen CDC and Adele Hopkins, of the Charleroi CDC received plaques for such work in their communities.

The Shining Star Award went to **Attorney Richard Mudrick** of Charleroi, for displaying outstanding personal and professional attributes, showing a commitment to his trade, helping to advance the chamber mission and promoting the Mid-Mon Valley. He has served in many leadership and volunteer positions. “He shows great professional knowledge, humility and compassion,” Keefer said. Mudrick, the chamber board vice president, practices real estate and estate law. “We love having him around,” Keefer said. “In my profession, sometimes we deal with people who aren’t so lovable,” Mudrick said. “I have never – seriously never – seen my staff lose their temper, nor have I ever had a complaint about them. My family and my staff are the reason I’ve been able to do the things I have.”

Recalling his youth, Mudrick became emotional. “My parents,” he said, choking up. “My father worked hard to put two sons through college making barely \$15,000 per year. I came out of school with very little debt. That helped enable me to be successful. I thank them for that.” Mudrick’s family, including his two grandchildren, attended, along with his mother.

Each of the winners received citations from state Sens. Tim Solobay, D-Canonsburg, and Richard Kasunic, D-Dunbar Township.



Robin Kerr and Pete Abdulovic from Ripein Winery.

CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

11:45 AM—1:00 PM

Lunch Begins Promptly at Noon!

Douglas Education Center's Van Keulen Complex

531 Schoonmaker Avenue, Monessen

\$15.00*

BUFFET LUNCHEON

by The Pasta Shoppe

"It is our great pleasure to showcase **Douglas Education Center** at our November luncheon meeting," said Deb Keefer, Chamber Director. "It is remarkable what Jeff Imbrescia and his team have accomplished at Douglas." The MVRCC also hopes that Monessen business owners and community leaders will plan to attend the luncheon. "It will be an opportunity to network and see the positive strides the City of Monessen has made in recent years."

On street parking is very limited near the Van Keulen Complex – A SHUTTLE SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE FORMER NARETTO BUILDING, beginning at 11:30 AM. When making reservations for the luncheon, attendees must let the Chamber staff know if they will be using this service.

Members, guests, and anyone interested in joining the Chamber are invited to attend this event. The cost of the luncheon will be credited to anyone who becomes a new member, and to the existing member who referred them. *See insert for registration information.* VISA, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.



3RD ANNUAL JOHN BARBERO MEMORIAL SPORTS AUCTION

The **Mon Valley YMCA** is sponsoring the 3rd Annual John Barbero Memorial Auction on Sunday, November 11, 2012 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM to honor the memory of John Barbero, longtime public address announcer of the *Pittsburgh Penguins*. John was an educator that touched the lives of many children in his 30 year teaching and administrative career. Proceeds from the auction will be used to award a scholarship each year in John's honor to a deserving high school senior from our Valley and to help underwrite programs for youth and teen activities.

The afternoon event is geared to family fun. In addition to the auctions and cash prize drawings, some of the events will include: complimentary pizza, cookies and beverages, face painting, balloon art, plus special visits from the Pirate Parrot, Steely McBeam, Iceburg and Froggy.

Over \$5000 in cash and prizes will be given away with a drawing every half hour beginning at 1:30 p.m. Prizes include: a \$1000 & (2) \$500 cash prizes, a flat screen TV with stand, a Flex steel luxury recliner and a YMCA family membership. The live auction items include a Steeler ticket package, Penguin ticket package and other sports, celebrity memorabilia to be announced.

The silent auction offers a wide variety of sporting event tickets, gift certificates for dining out, goods and services with a special section set up by Don Spagnolo, Steel City Auction that features autographed sports and celebrity memorabilia with certificates of authenticity.

The committee is encouraging local businesses, professionals or individuals that would like to support youth and teen programming and the scholarship fund to contact the Y or committee members to donate sports event and cultural tickets, vacation retreats, services, or gift certificates. Serving on the committee are Vic Vitale, chairman, Kevin Lee, Randy Rodriguez, Jerry Zahand, Sr., Dennis Borodaty, Dan LaCarte, Mark Raitano, Ron Monack, Ken Wiltz with YMCA staff Jeff Vitale, Angel Gulick and Susan Capocciana.

Tickets are \$5 per person with no charge for children under 12. For more information or to purchase tickets contact the Y at 724-483-8077.

MEMBER NEWS

ZELENSKI'S BRIDAL RECEIVES ELITE RETAILER AWARD

Zelenski's Bridal Shoppe recently received an Elite Retailer of the Year award from Jim's Formal Wear. Jim's is the largest formal wear distribution network in the U.S. with over 5,000 independent retailers. They provide tuxedo rental services for weddings, prom and black tie events. The award is based on rental volume, order accuracy, and exceptional customer service. Zelenski's Bridal Shoppe has been renting tuxedos from Jim's since 2006. Zelenski's Bridal is located at 409 McKean Avenue in Charleroi and can be contacted at 724-483-4112.

Attention Restaurant Owners!

Marcellus Shale – What is it and what impact can it have on you as a business person?

Salatino's RiverHouse Café owner, Mike Coury and **BJ's Diner** owner, Joanna Blair have asked those very questions. As a result, they are forming a group of restaurant owners interested in pursuing the answers. You are invited to be part of the first meeting on:

**Wednesday, October 24
6:30 PM**

Salatino's River House Café
506 McKean Avenue, Charleroi

On the agenda:

- ♦ The food service needs of the Marcellus Shale industry.
- ♦ Developing a working relationship amongst Mon Valley Restaurants.

SBA District Director, Carl Knoblock will talk about the Marcellus Shale Industry and guide your pursuits.

R.S.V.P. No later than Monday, October 22 to:
Joanna Blair, owner BJ's Diner
724-483-8244 (Diner) 724-366-9187 (Cell)
blairj1006@gmail.com

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR PLANNED FOR CHARLEROI

The Annual Halloween Spooktacular and Downtown Trick-or-Treat will take place on Wednesday, October 31.

JK TENER LIBRARY FALL FESTIVAL – 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
(Charleroi Market House)

CHARTHENE CLUB – Beginning at 11:00AM
Refreshments/Bake Sale in Magic City Square

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS TRICK-OR-TREAT - 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

PARADE – 7:00 PM

Merchants wishing to participate in the Downtown Trick-or-Treat are asked to contact the TEAM Charleroi office at 724-483-3507 for a banner for their store window.

Questions about the parade? Contact the Charleroi Fire Department at 724-483-7311. Additional information can also be found at www.teamcharleroi.org

Thank You to Our Sponsors:
Charleroi Chiropractic, Inc.,
Corning Federal Credit Union, Davies Ford of Charleroi and Maple Creek Distributors.



Zelenski's Bridal was just one of the many merchants that participated in the Downtown Trick-or-Treat last year.

TENER LIBRARY PLANS ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

The J.K. Tener Library will hold its Annual Fall Festival on Wednesday, October 31st from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Charleroi Market House, 423 McKean Avenue in conjunction with Charleroi's Spooktacular activities. This year's event includes kiddy games and crafts, food, music, bake sale, Chinese Auction and more. Tickets will be available for a \$200 Toys R' Us Gift card for a \$1.00 donation. Tickets will go off on the PA Lottery evening drawing on October 31. They are also having a chili cook off again this year with a \$50 prize for the favorite!! If anyone would like to enter the cook-off, please call the library at 724-483-8282 for additional information. Please plan to join them for an incredible fun-filled evening!



Welcome New Businesses to Monessen and Monongahela

MONESSEN SUNOCO

SPARTAN CAFÉ



The Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce recently conducted a ribbon cutting at the new **Monessen Sunoco**, 1000 Donner Avenue in Monessen. Seen here left to right: John Harhai, City Administrator, Mayor Mary Jo Smith, Lori Spina, Sammy Spina, Sam Spina and J.J. Georgagis, MVRCC Board Member. The newly renovated facility includes a convenience store and snack shop, and also accepts Shop N Save Rewards.



A ribbon cutting was held on September 12 at the **Spartan Café** located on the ground floor of the Spartan Surgical Center in Carroll Township. Pictured left to right: Carroll Township Supervisors Gary Lenzi and Jim Harrison, Amy Ditta, Owner, Patrick Garman, Spartan Surgical Center, Milt Kubik, Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Paul Brand, Carroll Township Police Chief. The Spartan Café has many delicious choices on the menu, for takeout or to eat in the cheerful dining area 7am-3:30pm Monday through Friday. Catering is also available. Call owner Amy Ditta at 412-478-4223 for more information.

Attention Chamber Members: GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT!

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER/TABLOID

Submit your news (anniversaries, achievements, etc.) to
info@mvrchamber.org

Deadline for Editorial/Advertising for November Tabloid:
Wednesday, October 31. Tabloid—Publication date:
Thursday, November 8, 2012.

AFFORDABLE ADS ARE A PHONE CALL AWAY!

Advertise in the **Mon Valley Messenger**—Contact Judi Robbins, Ad Manager at 412-708-7328 or
robbins.judi@gmail.com

Advertise in the monthly Chamber Supplement to the **Valley Independent**—Contact your Ad Rep or Karen Strickland at 724-684-2609.



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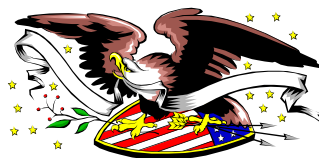
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October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events!

Saturday, October 13—Lois Orange Ducoeur Breast Cancer Walk, Charleroi Market House, 10:00 AM.
www.teamcharleroi.org

Wednesday, October 17—Chamber Board Meeting, SPS Conference Room B, 8:00 AM.

Wednesday, October 24—Restaurant Owner Meeting "Food Service Needs of Marcellus Shale", RiverHouse Café, 6:30 PM. *See additional information on page 6.*

Friday—Saturday, October 26 & 27—Charleroi Borough Electronics Recycling Event, Charleroi Market House,
www.charleroiборо.org

Wednesday, October 31—Annual Halloween Parade and Downtown Trick-or-Treat, Charleroi. *See page 6 for more information.* www.teamcharleroi.org

Sunday, November 11—3rd Annual John Barbero Memorial Sports Auction, Mon Valley YMCA, 1:00 PM—4:00 PM.
See story on page 5.

Tuesday, November 13—Chamber Luncheon, Douglas Education Center, 11:45 AM—1:00 PM. *See insert for details,*

Wednesday, November 21—Chamber Board Meeting, SPS Board Room, 8:00 AM.

Thursday, November 22—*Happy Thanksgiving!* Chamber office closed.

Saturday, November 24—Small Business Saturday & Santa Arrives in Downtown Charleroi. www.teamcharleroi.org

Wednesday, December 5—Annual Holiday Party, TBD.

Wednesday, December 19—Chamber Board Meeting, SPS Board Room, 8:00 AM.

Watch the mail, e-mail, FACEbook and website for more information on all upcoming events!

www.mvrchamber.org